PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) It is not possible to estimate the Oil Pool account position with accuracy as various factors tike materiiisation of estimated demand, fluctuation in international prices of crude oil/ petroleum products, foreign exchange variation, and domestic prices of controlled petroleum products which effect the balance.

(b) Review of petroleum products prices *is* continous process.

(c) With a view to contain the deficit in the Oil Pool Account, the Government have taken a number *of* measures such as moving product prices towards import party and gradual phasing out of subsidy on petroleum. Further, Government had decided in November, 1997 to dismantle the Administered Pricing Machanism (APM) in a phased manner. Accordingly petroleum products except Motor Spirit (MS), High Speed Diesel (HSD), Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO-PDS) and Domestic Liquified Petroleum Gas (Domestic LPG) have been decontrolled effective 1.4.1998.

**Excessive increase in the cost of imported petroleum products**

† 2427. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of import of petroleum products has increased excessively during the past three years;

(b) if so, the details of value and quantity of import done during the last five years;

(c) the percentage of the value of petroleum products during this period; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The information is given in the attached Statement. *(See* below).

(d) Steps have been taken to increase crude oil production in the country through application of improved technologies, development of new fields, additional development of existing fields and by inviting foreign and private capital in the upstream sector. Steps have also taken to increase refining capacity by expansion of existing refineries in public sector and setting up of refineries in joint sector and private sector.

**Statement**

*Imports@ of crude oil and petroleum products* (1995-96 *to* 1999-2000)

| Item | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1998-99* | 1999-00" |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Crude Oil Quantity (Th. Tonnes) | 27342 | 33906 | 34494 | 39808 | 44989 |
| Value (Rs. Crores) | 11517 | 18538 | 15897 | 14876 | 30695 |
| Change in value over last year | - | +61% | -14% | -6% | +106% |
| Share of Crude Oil in total value | 48% | 54% | 56% | 60% | 73% |
| Petroleum Products (POL) Quantity (Th. Tonnes) | 20335 | 20265 | 19530 | 18780 | 13067 |
| Value (Rs. Crores) | 12578 | 15634 | 12432 | 9837 | 11119 |
| Change in value over last year | — | +24% | -20% | -21% | +13% |
| Share of POL in total value | 52% | 46% | 44% | 40% | 27% |
| Total Value | 24095 (100%) | 34172 (100%) | 28329 (100%) | 24713 (100%) | 27% (100%) |

@Import by IOC, Mumbai only. *Provisional